

Serial No.: 10/663,006
Docket No.: ECV-5662
Amendment dated July 7, 2006
Responsive to the Office Action dated June 6, 2006

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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

5 Listing of claims:

1-11. (Canceled)

10 12. (Previously presented) A method of attaching a prosthetic valve to a heart of a patient, said method comprising:

15 placing a suture template having a plurality of notches at a location of the heart that is to receive the prosthetic valve;

attaching a plurality of sutures to the location of the heart by placing the plurality of sutures through the plurality of notches of the suture template and through the location of the heart;

removing the suture template from the location of the heart; and

15 attaching the plurality of sutures to the prosthetic valve and fixing the prosthetic valve at said location.

20 13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the location of the heart that is to receive the prosthetic valve is the aortic root.

25 14. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein removing the suture template includes cutting the template.

15. (Original) The method of claim 12 wherein placing a plurality of sutures includes placing sutures at commissure portions of the template.

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16. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein placing a plurality of sutures includes placing sutures at commissure portions of the template and at cusp portions of the template.

5 17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein placing the plurality of sutures includes placing sutures at the commissure portions, then at the cusp portions.

18. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising arranging the plurality of sutures into a suture organizer before attaching the plurality of sutures to the prosthetic valve.

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19. (Original) The method of claim 12 further comprising sliding the prosthetic valve along the sutures to said location after attaching the plurality of sutures to the prosthetic valve.

15 20. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the plurality of sutures includes a thread and two needles attached at each end.

21. (New) The method of claim 12 further comprising attaching a plurality of sutures substantially around the periphery of the location of the heart and around corresponding positions on a sewing ring of the prosthetic valve.

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22. (New) The method of claim 12 wherein the plurality of sutures is between 8-12.